

12 July 2006

Dear SCMS Pedagogy Awards Committee,

Please accept this letter in support of Chuck Kleinhans' nomination for a Pedagogy Award. I write as a long-time colleague of Professor Kleinhans, during which time I served two terms as Chair of the Radio/TV/Film department. Because of this I am deeply familiar with his work in areas of curriculum development and dissertation advising, as well as his work as director of graduate studies and on other department committees.

Beyond the routine duties of graduate advising (which are, of course, considerable), Chuck took the lead in developing and running a range of workshops and activities that promote the training of doctoral students for professional activities beyond the classroom. He set up formal TA training sessions for new teaching assistants, and introduced workshops for graduate students addressing various aspects of academic life: on publishing, writing the prospectus, the job talk, the job search, etc. He started doing many of these workshops even before he officially served as director of graduate studies, offering invaluable guidance to graduate students. In addition, he has served on countless dissertation committees, and served as advisor for students who have become leading scholars and teachers in the field.

Beyond his work specifically focused on training doctoral students, Chuck spent many years as chair of the department curriculum committee. In this capacity, he exerted considerable influence on the curriculum for undergraduate and graduate students, with particular commitment to maintaining a balance between productions and studies courses; and developed several new courses, including courses in media aesthetics and production for non-majors. He has served on various other department committees that address issues of curriculum and teaching, including one that revised the MFA program.

In all these ways, and many others, Chuck Kleinhans has been an influential, guiding force in pedagogy, in terms that encompass the classroom, advising, mentorship, and curriculum policy and design.

Sincerely,

Mimi White

Professor, Radio/TV/Film and Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, School of Communication